

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

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AF-06 MC-02 COME-00 /105 W
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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9991

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4979

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T USNATO 0658

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NATO, OR, XF, XG, XI

SUBJ: NATO STUDY ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF REOPENING THE SUEZ CANAL

REF: A. USNATO 0659 B. USNATO 0488

1. AT FEBRUARY 4 POLADS MEETING ON SUEZ CANAL, MAJOR EVENT
WAS TABLING OF FRENCH CONTRIBUTION (INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF
WHICH IS REPORTED REF A).

2. IN ADDITION, GREEK REP (MALLIKOURTIS) CONTRIBUTED A REPORT
WHICH WE HAVE TRANSLATED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE:

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES FOR GREECE ON THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ
CANAL.

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THE CLOSING OF THE SUEZ CANAL SINCE 1967 AND THE USE BY
MERCHANT MARINES OF THE CAPE ROUTE HAVE BROUGHT HARMFUL RESULTS
FOR THE ECONOMIES OF COUNTRIES WHOSE SEAPORTS ARE SITUATED
ON THE MARITIME ROUTES OF SHIPS USING THE SUEZ CANAL -- NOT

ONLY IN TERMS OF LOADING AND UNLOADING CARGO BUT ALSO IN TERMS OF DRY DOCKING AND REPAIRS.

THIS WAS PARTICULARLY THE CASE FOR GREECE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT:

A) SHE POSSESSED A VERY SUBSTANTIAL MERCHANT FLEET CONSISTING IN LARGE PART OF SHIPS OF MEDIUM TONNAGE WHICH COULD USE THE CANAL;

B) HER PORTS AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS IN THE SERVICE OF MERCHANT SHIPPING ARE LOCATED NEAR THE CANAL, AND FOR THIS REASON ARE EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO SHIPS COMING FROM OR GOING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE CANAL;

C) HER COMMERCE WITH COUNTRIES EAST OF THE CANAL HAD TO BE RE-ROUTED WHICH RESULTED IN INCREASED FREIGHT RATES.

AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL WILL BE USEFUL FROM THE ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW FOR GREECE AND THE OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE IN GENERAL. END QUOTE

3. POLADS ALSO WELCOMED A CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF WHICH WAS AVAILABLE IN MILITARY DELEGATIONS AND WAS SOON TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE COMMITTEE (SEPTTEL).

4. CANADIAN REP PROMISED HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUEZ STUDY WOULD BE CIRCULATED "WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS."

5. COMMITTEE AGREED THERE WAS NOW AMPLE MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR STUDY AND CHAIRMAN PROMISED NATO/IS WOULD SOON CIRCULATE A FIRST DRAFT ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE AND COMPILE THE VARIOUS CONTRIBUTIONS. BRUCE

SECRET

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